

# **Irish Memory Orchestra**

## **Child and Vulnerable Adult**

### **Safeguarding Statement**

#### **The Irish Memory Orchestra**

The Irish Memory Orchestra is a cross-genre orchestra which devises unique cultural programmes, including inspiring apprenticeship schemes for young musicians.

The Irish Memory Orchestra has a busy education programme, working across Ireland and abroad mentoring musicians of all ages.

Our service is delivered at various venues and online on a project by project basis. We do not have a specific centre of activity.

We work with many partner organisations to extend our reach. Our off-site partners include venues, schools and accommodation providers.

#### **Commitment to Safeguarding**

The Irish Memory Orchestra believes that the arts are critical to a healthy and flourishing society. We respect the right to cultural access for everyone in all our diversity. We believe meaningful arts experiences are central to child development and to learning at all ages. Our priority is to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service.

We respect the rights of the child and promote a child-centred ethos. We:

- listen to children
- value and respect children as individuals
- involve children in decision making where possible and as appropriate
- encourage children

We commit to practice, which protects children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm while they are with the staff and workers in this organisation.

Staff and workers in the Irish Memory Orchestra accept and recognise our responsibility to develop awareness of the issues which cause children and vulnerable adults harm.

Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation; all staff, artists, volunteers, board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All board members, staff, artists, volunteers and work experience students must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

## Services Provided

The Irish Memory Orchestra provides the following services to children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- Occasional Apprentice and Youth Orchestra Schemes aimed at training young musicians in orchestral performances
- Occasional summer schools where orchestra members teach young musicians.
- Programmes where vulnerable adults participate include: The Vision Symphony, working with blind and vision-impaired musicians.
- A core team of professional artist facilitators with several guest facilitators work in each project

### Activity Breakdown:

- Facilitated sessions – in person and online
- One-to-one teaching – in person and online
- Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in venue
- Performance events
- Use of off-site facilities for activities
- Care of children with special educational needs
- Care of vulnerable adult participants
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst participants, including appropriate use of restraint where required
- Administration of Medicine, and of First Aid
- Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst participants
- Training of the Irish Memory Orchestra staff and workers in child protection matters
- Use of parent volunteers to support activities
- Care of participants with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as vision impairment/blindness, ethnic minorities/migrants; members of the Traveller community; Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT+) children; perceived to be LGBT+ and minority religious faiths/communities; Children in care
- Recruitment of staff and workers including –artist facilitators/Guest Speakers/volunteers/Parents/Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours and present during after school activities
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by participants in the venue
- Application of sanctions under The Irish Memory Orchestra Code of Behaviour

- Students participating in work experience in the venue
- Student undertaking training or work placement off site
- Use of video/photography/other media to document the programme
- Use of premises by other organisation
- Website and social media information service

## Risk Assessment

The Irish Memory Orchestra has identified the following risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) in respect of its activities.

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Risk of harm of a child or vulnerable adult by a member of staff/volunteer	<p>Adopting child and vulnerable adult protection guidelines through a code of behaviour for staff, facilitators, artists and volunteers.</p> <p>Ensuring Staff and workers are informed and have relevant training in relation to our declaration of guiding principles and safeguarding procedures</p> <p>Sharing information about child and vulnerable adult protection and good practice with participants and their parents/carers</p> <p>Following careful procedures for recruitment and selection of staff, facilitators and volunteers</p> <p>Garda Vetting appropriate members of staff to ensure adequate supervision at all times.</p>
Risk of harm caused by lack of supervision	<p>Ensuring age and development appropriate supervision is provided for children during activities</p> <p>Ensuring that adult carer contact mobile is requested at point of booking</p> <p>Ensuring that important safety information is requested from the adult carer at point of booking and facilitators read and check this.</p>
Risk of harm by a visitor (workers, parents, third party service providers, venue staff etc)	<p>Ensuring that the groups and organisations we work closely with adopt guidelines for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</p> <p>Ensuring that visiting artists who are working with children are at all times supported by a Project Assistant or a member of staff</p>

Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly	Ensuring that all relevant parties are aware of the procedure for sharing information about concerns with agencies that need to know and involving parents, carers and children appropriately
Risk of harm by another child	Maintaining and sharing relevant policies including in addition to this document including an Anti-Bullying Policy and a Code of Conduct as part of a Participation Agreement  Adequate supervision during rehearsals
Risk of harm by a member of staff/volunteer/stranger/peer during off-site activities	Ensuring that an appropriate number of Garda Vetted personnel are present for all off-site activities
Risk of harm through access to ICT (e.g., social media or web access, electronic contact, etc).	Ensuring that all staff, volunteers and participants are aware of our internet and photography policy
Risk of harm caused by a member of the Irish Memory Orchestra staff and workers communicating with young/vulnerable service users in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	Inclusion of appropriate guidelines for digital communications in participation agreements and contracts
Risk of harm during one-to-one teaching, mentoring or coaching situation	IMO has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one learning activities
Risk of harm at drop-off and collection times when children are arriving at or leaving our service.	IMO has in place a policy and clear procedures for drop-off and collection process

## Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2017, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers by a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment of staff
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed above are contained within our Child Safeguarding Policy, which is available at [irishmemoryorchestra.com](http://irishmemoryorchestra.com).

## Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep participants safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement is due for review in December 2023 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed & Dated:



8th Feb 2022

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**For queries in relation to this Child Safeguarding Statement please contact**  
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